



Lead and Copper Rule

All samples for lead and copper were collected by the September 30, 2006 deadline. Results are due to DOH by January 10, 2007. Analysis of the results indicates that all sub-regions in the program have met the lead and copper action levels again. The Cedar purveyor group will not sample in 2007 and 2008. Every other group will sample again in summer 2007.

Total Coliform Rule

Systems purchasing water from Seattle will soon be sent a form regarding compliance with the Total Coliform Rule. These forms will be used to determine our compliance status as a regional system. The form is entitled "Continuation Request for Regional Reduced Coliform Monitoring" and will be due back to SPU sometime in December 2006.

SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, 206 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, 206 684-0216.



Conservation Technical Forum

On the web at <http://www.savingwater.org>

YOUTH EDUCATION

Study to Determine Bert's Effectiveness

Preliminary plans are underway to study Bert the Salmon's effectiveness in educating kids about water conservation. Over the past four years, several products featuring Bert have been created to engage and involve kids in learning about the importance and practice of saving water at home. Included are two special cartoon TV



Water Quality Technical Forum Report

Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data

There were two positive coliform samples in purveyor areas during September 2006. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.6 to 1.4 mg/L, with an overall average of 0.9 mg/L. The target chlorine residual at the Tolt Treatment Facility is 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual is still 1.7 mg/L. The number of samples with chlorine less than 0.2 mg/L was very low in September.

Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is meeting every week still. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the Cedar supply (Lake Youngs treated) samples in September were 1.4 and 1.5. The Tolt supply results were both 1.0 for September. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at moya.joubert@seattle.gov.

ads, promotion, bookmarks, the award-winning Waterbusters game also the new Kid's Page. Although all have been popular, no study has been done to determine what affect they have had. The regional study will survey students to determine knowledge and attitudinal changes and should begin in the first quarter of 2007.

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RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE

Parking Strip Gardens – Models for Conservation?



In the past, SWP's residential landscape programs have focused on changing behavior one garden at a

time. What if neighbors were to work together to create water efficient landscapes blocks at a time? Not only will there be more change (block by block), but it would be very visible change that might inspire more residents to do the same. Staff are partnering with a UW Landscape Architecture graduate design studio and a neighborhood in Seattle to explore the potential for a parking strip garden program. We have asked the UW students to develop templates that could be easily adapted throughout the service area. In addition, we will be asking residents, business owners, managers of institutions and other sidewalk/parking strip users to give us their feedback on the design concepts and to tell us what elements might inspire them to team up with their neighbors on making these changes. While SPU and SWP are paying for the concept development and neighborhood involvement, physical changes to the parking strips would be constructed by the homeowners. The designs and feedback will be complete by mid-December, with a final report and design booklet in early spring.

CONTACT: Liz Fikejs, (206) 615-0516

EVALUATION

Regional Water Conservation Survey

Survey fielding was completed in September: 1,070 surveys in total. Initial analysis is underway, as is the beginning of the billing attribution element of the project. Billing information for the Seattle respondents is currently being queried.

We will soon contact participating purveyors to obtain the account information needed for their customers who responded to the survey.

CONTACT: Nota Lucas (206) 684-5855

Exciting EPA Web site provides information and documents on water-related topics.

The EPA has put together a collection of Web sites and documents that teachers can use to explain water-related topics. The following fact sheet is an example of some of the topics featured at this site. Check out their web site at <http://epa.gov/teachers/water.htm>.



What is an Estuary?

An estuary is a partially enclosed body of water formed where freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with the salty sea water. Estuaries and the lands surrounding them are places of transition from land to sea, and from fresh to salt water. Although influenced by the tides, estuaries are protected from the full force of ocean waves, winds, and storms by the reefs, barrier islands, or fingers of land, mud, or sand that define an estuary's seaward boundary.

Estuaries come in all shapes and sizes and go by many different names, often known as bays, lagoons, harbors, inlets, or sounds. (Note not all water bodies by those names are necessarily estuaries. The defining feature of an estuary is the mixing of fresh and salt water, not the name.) Some familiar examples of estuaries include San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound, Chesapeake Bay, Boston Harbor, and Tampa Bay.

The tidal, sheltered waters of estuaries support unique communities of plants and animals, specially adapted for life at the margin of the sea. Estuarine environments are among the most productive on earth, creating more organic matter each year than comparably-sized areas of forest, grassland, or agricultural land (1). Many different habitat types are found in and around estuaries, including shallow open waters, freshwater and salt marshes, sandy beaches, mud and sand flats, rocky shores, oyster reefs, mangrove forests, river deltas, tidal pools, sea grass and kelp beds, and wooded swamps.

The productivity and variety of estuarine habitats foster a wonderful abundance and diversity of

wildlife. Shore birds, fish, crabs and lobsters, marine mammals, clams and other shellfish, marine worms, sea birds, and reptiles are just some of the animals that make their homes in and around estuaries. These animals are linked to one another and to an assortment of specialized plants and microscopic organisms through complex food webs and other interactions.

Estuaries are places where rivers meet the sea. They are fascinating and beautiful ecosystems distinct from all other places on earth. To learn more about estuaries and other water topics, go to their web site at:

<http://epa.gov/teachers/water.htm>.